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## HISTORICAL NOTES.

### A WOMAN'S LETTERS IN 1779 AND 1782.

The following letters written during Provost's expedition against Charleston, in 1779, will show the tribulations and dangers of a "Rebel" young lady during the Revolutionary war. The first letter was written while Provost's army was occupying St. Andrew's Parish. He had crossed to the east bank of the Ashley May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1779, advanced to the lines of Charleston, which only the approach of Genl Lincoln's army saved from capture, and on May 14 he retreated to the west bank. On June 20, 1779, a battle took place in Stono River, in which the Americans were repulsed, and soon afterwards Provost withdrew to Savannah.

[No. 1.]

'Many thanks my Dr. Sukey, for your kind inquiry's about me & still more thanks for acquainting me of your situation. We left Prince Williams the day after you parted with us. My Brother attempted bringing his Negroes with him, but we were obliged to leave them in Pon pon River, from whence they returned home; thear was a few put on board Mr. River's Schooner—which arrived safe in Charles-Town; Nancy & self have six among them, they went about the Town for their victuals. We have our two maids with us; Mariah is with the rest of our negroes at Oakatees, (I

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<sup>1</sup>The writer of these letters, Mary Lucia Bull, was great-grand-daughter of Stephen Bull, the emigrant, "Caseeka of the Itawanas," and the grand-niece of the First Lieut Governor Bull. She was named after her grandmother, Mrs. Barnaby Bull, a daughter of the first Landgrave Edmond Bellenger. On the death of her brother, John

believe,) under the care of Mr. Flower & Mr. M. Garvey. It is impossible for me to describe to you what I felt, while the British Army was on this side Ashley-Ferry, we never went in to our beds at night, had Candles constantly burning & were alarmed at every noise that we heard. Mrs. Bull was plundered of some of her clothes, my Aunt Bellinger's Chamber door was burst open & a great many of her things taken, in short everybody in the House lost something except Nancy & myself. As soon as we saw them taking things about the House we went into our Chamber, had the window shut & stood against the door, (for it could not lock.) One Man came & turned the Brass but did not push against it hard enough to find out it was not lock'd. But, good Heavens, my Sukey, think what we must have suffered when a parcel of Indians came bolting into the House, as for my part, I expected nothing but death, & indeed, at that moment it was indifferent to me whether I lived or died, yet I could not bear the thought of being murder'd by the Savages. One of the British Colonels came to the House, we told him we were very uneasy about the Indians & common Soldiers, he was sorry they disturbed us, (he said), but we had better fee him to stay with us, for he had good spirits, cou'd sing a good Song & had a deal of chitty-chatty, Whether he said that to divert us, (for we were very dull) or whether he felt as little for our distress as he appeared to do, I will not undertake to say. You ask me what we intend doing—that is a question that I know not how to answer. I am as yet quite undetermined what to do. I wait for my brother's advice, who is at the Indian-Land.<sup>2</sup>

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Bull, who had married the heiress of the Perry family, she inherited the estate of their family. She married Jacob Guerard. Among her many descendants is James Lowndes, Esquire, now of Washington, D. C., whose interest in this Society and in the Carolina Art Association and the Charleston Library Society has been more than well proved by the presentation of pamphlets, books and other valuable gifts.

<sup>2</sup>A part of Beaufort District—now County was for many years known as the "Indian Land."

Mrs. Kelsall (my brother informed me) has invited us to go to Georgia, but I see no possibility of our accepting his invitation. I am very glad to hear your Mamma has been so lucky, please remember us all kindly to her, if you have any opportunity of writing to her; I wish, my Sukey, I knew how to go & see you before you go to River-May, I would not mind your being at a Strangers, I believe I would jump up behind Isaac now, if Nancy would let me, but she wants to see you as much as I do, & she is so selfish she won't let me have the pleasure of seeing you alone.

And now, my Sukey, I must beg that you will not be uneasy about me, I am as happy as your absence and the times will permit me to be. Mrs. Bull, Nancy & Miss Polly Cameron desire to be remembered to you. I remain your unchangeable Friend,

Mary Lucia Bull.

P. S.—Mrs Garvey & Miss Cameron stay'd at Prince William's.

Miss Susanna Stoll.

[No. 2.]

Stoney Point, July 5, 1779.

My Dr Sukey: The desire you must have of seeing your mother makes me congratulate you on the prospect you have of returning home, but as I know not when we shall meet again, my spirits are quite sunken; when shall I enjoy the heart-felt satisfaction of seeing and conversing with my amiable friend? You desire me to continue to love you; your command is easily obey'd; yes my Sukey, as long as your Lucia is blessed with life and reason she will love you. Mrs. Bellinger has spent one day here since you left us. I agree with you in your opinion of that Lady; she is indeed an agreeable woman. I hope to see her after a while I am here, as she intends making some stay in Chas Town.

Please remember us all to your Mamma and Mrs Donnom.

Nancy desires her love to you. Mrs Bull and Miss M. Cameron also desire to be remembered to you.

Adieu, my dear Sukey; believe me to be your affectionate and unchangeable,

Mary Lucia Bull.

Miss Susanna Stoll,

Favored by Mr M. Garvey

[No. 3.]

Prince William, March 15, 1782.

My Dear Sukey: I am very sorry you had no paper to write to me; a letter at this time wou'd have given me infinite pleasure; I hope, my dear Sukey, the change in my situation will make no change in your regard for me; let me beg of you to treat me with the same affectionate freedom that you have ever done. Your heart I have found capable of love and friendship at the same time; pray imagine mine to be so, too; our sentiments were ever much alike. I wish to see you and your dear little Boy, I thought to have had that pleasure in a few days, but some British vessels being in the way will prevent my going up as soon as I expected.

Please present my respectful compliments to your mother: my compliments to Mr Garvey also and believe me to be yours most affectionately,

Mary Lucia Guerard.

Mrs Susanna Garvey.

Favored by Mrs. A. Garvey.

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#### OBITUARY NOTICES OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

Departed this life on the 1st of June last, at his Plantation, (Cedar Field, Christ Church Parish,) in the Seventy-second year of his age, MR. THOMAS ALLAN, of a lin-